

Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) Extended Range Multi-Purpose Unmanned Aircraft System (ERMP UAS) Detachment

What is it?

The QRC ERMP (MQ-1C) is an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition (RSTA) asset that operates at the division level supporting division and Brigade Combat Team (BCT) requirements. It provides day/night electro-optical and infrared video to the commander in near real time. Other capabilities are a Communications Relay Package (CRP) as well as an LD/RF to execute target handoffs and remote designation for manned platforms. The unit organization is comprised of 17 Soldiers that include a detachment commander, three tactical UAS warrant officers, and 10 15W (what is this?) enlisted operators and associated company support personnel. QRC is also unique in that the system is entirely maintained by 22 Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) personnel. The CLS is an interim solution for maintenance support that will be phased out for the ERMP Program of Record (PoR) as the Army trains Soldiers to assume those maintenance tasks and responsibilities currently performed by CLS personnel.

What has Army Aviation done?

The QRC is an interim rapid fielding of the ERMP Program of Record (PoR) to support immediate requirements of deployed commanders.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have Planned for the future?

The introduction of QRC provides commanders with an integrated long range and armed UAS to meet tactical requirements. The QRC, while providing an immediate capability organic to the division commander, also informs the ERMP PoR as the Army approaches initial ERMP fielding.

The QRC ERMP detachment fielding schedule is provided below. (NOTE: Equipment will remain in the Area of Operation (AOR) with replacement Soldiers rotating in to form a new detachment. Reset of equipment will be conducted in the AOR).

- QRC 1 was equipped, trained and deployed the third quarter of FY 09.
- QRC 2 will be equipped, trained and deployed the fourth quarter of FY 10.
- QRC 1/Replacement 1 (R1) will be equipped, trained and deployed the third quarter of FY 10.
- QRC 2/Replacement 1 (R1) will be equipped, trained and deployed the fourth quarter of FY 11.
- QRC 1/Replacement 2 (R2) will be equipped, trained and deployed the third quarter of FY 11.
- QRC 2/Replacement 2 (R2) will be equipped, trained and deployed the fourth quarter of FY 12.
- QRC 1/Replacement 3 (R3) will be equipped, trained and deployed the third quarter of FY 12.
- QRC 2/Replacement 3 (R3) will be equipped, trained and deployed the fourth quarter of FY 13.
- QRC 1 will be replaced by PoR First Unit Equipped (FUE) in approximately the third quarter of FY 13.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

The evolution of UAS as an organic division-level asset is critical to meeting the U.S. Army's continued need for near real time RSTA and communications relay requirements. These requirements cover the extended modern non linear battlefields of today's conflicts. The highly unpredictable insurgent enemy loses its advantage of blending into the civilian population, and using hit and run tactics when a UAS loiters overhead. Suspected enemy areas can be covered 24-hours-a- day with UAS carrying mission specific sensors and onboard weapons capability. The ability to provide continuous persistent surveillance is critical to the Army's success by inhibiting the enemy's ability to circulate and mount attacks against friendly forces.

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